

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/664,676

Examiner

Tuyet Vo

Applicant(s)

RIBARICH ET AL.

Art Unit

2821

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to November 04, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |


TUYET VO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAIL ACTION

Reasons For Allowance

1. Claims 1-24 are allowed.
 2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to disclose a control circuit as method as well for electronic ballast with a power switch comprising a feedback circuit coupled to the driver circuit and the control circuit for providing control information to the control circuit based on output values of the driver circuit; a fault responsive circuit coupled to the feedback circuit and the driver circuit for responding to faults detected in the feedback circuit; and the fault response circuit is operable to disable the driver circuit upon detection of a fault as required in claims 1 and 16. The prior art also fails to include a fault criteria in the fault response circuit; and the fault criteria includes at least one of a crest factor indication and a zero volt switching indication as required in claim 3 or a bootstrap diode coupled between the power input and the driver circuit to contribute to providing a start up voltage for the driver circuit as required in claim 4 and the feedback circuit is operable to process a signal from the driver circuit and influence the switching control circuit to obtain zero volt switching and minimum current switching for the switch as required in claims 8 and 9. The prior art also lacks to support steps of decreasing the switching frequency toward a resonant load resonance frequency to increase current and voltage supplied to the lamp; preventing the half bridge circuit from operating if there is at least one of a lamp ignition failure and an excessive load current; and maintaining the switching frequency near the resonant frequency after the lamp has ignited as required in claim 18.
 3. The remaining dependent claims are allowable for at least above reason.
- None of cited prior arts stands alone or combination with others discloses all limitation required in claim invention.

Remarks

Amendment filed November 04, 2004 has been entered.

Art Unit: 2821

Correspondence

Any comments considered necessarily by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuyet Vo whose telephone number is 571 272 1830. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571 272 1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding assigned is 703 872 9306 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308 0956.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Tuyet Vo', is written over a horizontal line.

Tuyet Vo

Primary Examiner

January 10, 2005